

OPINION 1789

Pseudoxyrhopus Günther, 1881 (Reptilia, Serpentes): conserved

Ruling

(1) Under the plenary powers the generic name *Homalocephalus* Jan, 1863 is hereby suppressed for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy.

(2) The name *Pseudoxyrhopus* Günther, 1881 (gender: masculine), type species by monotypy of the replaced nominal genus *Homalocephalus* Jan, 1863, *Homalocephalus heterurus* Jan, 1863, is hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology.

(3) The name *heterurus* Jan, 1863, as published in the binomen *Homalocephalus heterurus* (specific name of the type species of *Pseudoxyrhopus* Günther, 1881) is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.

(4) The name *Homalocephalus* Jan, 1863, as suppressed in (1) above, is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology.

History of Case 2814

An application for the conservation of *Pseudoxyrhopus* Günther, 1881 was received from Profs Hobart M. Smith and David Chiszar (*University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado, U.S.A.*), Kenneth L. Williams (*Northwestern State University, Natchitoches, Louisiana, U.S.A.*) and Van Wallach (*Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, U.S.A.*) on 8 April 1991. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 49: 284–286 (December 1992). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals.

Decision of the Commission

On 1 December 1993 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 49: 285. At the close of the voting period on 1 March 1994 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes — 23: Bayer, Bock, Cocks, Cogger, Corliss, Hahn, Heppell, Kabata, Kraus, Macpherson, Mahnert, Martins de Souza, Minelli, Nielsen, Nye, Savage, Schuster, Starobogatov, Štys, Thompson, Trjapitzin, Uéno, Willink

Negative votes — 2: Bouchet and Holthuis.

No votes were received from Halvorsen and Lehtinen.

Dupuis and Ride were on leave of absence.

Holthuis commented that the genus was small (eight species) with a restricted distribution and it was his view that substitution of the name *Pseudoxyrhopus* by *Homalocephalus* was unlikely to cause confusion.

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on Official Lists and an Official Index by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

heterurus, *Homalocephalus*, Jan, 1863, *Archivio per la Zoologia, l'Anatomia e la Fisiologia*, 2(2): 286.

Homalocephalus Jan, 1863, *Archivio per la Zoologia, l'Anatomia e la Fisiologia*, 2(2): 286.

Pseudoxyrhopus Günther, 1881, *Annals and Magazine of Natural History*, (5)7(41): 359.